

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8394

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CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS SHUM KS SOPN

SUBJ: KOREAN EM-9 PRISONERS FREED ON CHRISTMAS DAY

REF: SEOUL 10769 (DTG 220620Z DEC 77)

SUMMARY: IN CONJUNCTION WITH TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS RELEASE OF PRISONERS, ROKG SUNDAY ALSO RELEASED ELEVEN EM-9 PRISONERS, INCLUDING MYONGDONG DEFENDANT FR. HAM SE-UNG. END SUMMARY.

1. OVER WEEKEND, KOREAN MEDIA GAVE PROMINENT TREATMENT TO NEWS OF RELEASE ON DECEMBER 25, IN CONJUNCTION WITH PAROLE OF SOME 2,200 OTHER PRISONERS, OF ELEVEN CONVICTED VIOLATORS OF EMERGENCY MEASURE NUMBER NINE (EM-9). MOST PROMINENT TREATMENT WAS ACCORDED FACT THAT ONE OF ELEVEN, WHOSE SENTENCES WERE SUSPENDED BY DECISION OF PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE, WAS MYONGDONG DEFENDANT FR. HAM SE-UNG (AGED 36), WHO HAD BEEN SERVING A THREE-YEAR SENTENCE IN KONGJU PRISON. NONE OF OTHER TEN RELEASED WAS CONNECTED WITH MARCH 1976 MYONGDONG CASE.

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2. NEWSPAPER ARTICLES NOTED THAT THIS RELEASE BRINGS TO 42 NUMBER OF EM-9 PRISONERS RELEASED THIS YEAR WITH SUSPENDED SENTENCES, WHILE TWO OTHERS (REV. KO YONG-GUN AND KIM TAE-JUNG) HAVE LEFT PENITENTIARIES FOR MEDICAL REASONS. ARTICLES ALSO GENERALLY NOTED THAT FOLLOWING SIX ARE STILL SERVING TERMS FOR MYONGDONG AFFAIR: KIM

TAE-JUNG, REV. MUN IK-HWAN (AGED 59), FR. MUN CHONG-HYON (37), YI MUN-YONG (50), REV. MUN TONG-HWAN (56), AND SO NAM-DONG (55). ARTICLES RECALLED THAT MINISTER OF JUSTICE YI SON-JUNG REPORTED TO ASSEMBLY LAST OCTOBER 6 THAT, AS OF END OF SEPTEMBER, A TOTAL OF 104 PERSONS WERE IN PRISON FOR VIOLATIONS OF EM-9 (62 ON TRIAL, 37 CONVICTED, AND FIVE UNDER INVESTIGATION).

3. NAMES AND AFFILIATIONS OF OTHER TEN RELEASED ARE: KIM SUK-WON (AGED 33, COMPANY EMPLOYEE); PYON KANG-JA (31, FEMALE, UNEMPLOYED); YI HYE-GYONG (21, FEMALE, REPORTER FOR WEEKLY CITIZEN); KIM CHUN-GON (56, PATRIARCH, CENTRAL JERUSALEM CHURCH); CH'OE SANG-IK (57) AND CHON U-SONG (42, BOTH MEMBERS OF UNIFICATION RESEARCH ASSOCIATION); YI YONG-DOK (27, BUS DRIVER'S HELPER); CH'OE HAN (29, TEACHER); KIM CHIN-GON (41, DRIVER); AND CHO KYONG-SON (36, COMMERCE).

4. YI HYE-GYONG, EHWA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENT, WAS ARRESTED FOR ATTEMPTING TO ORGANIZE A DEMONSTRATION AT EHWA. CH'OE AND CHON ARE AFFILIATED WITH URA, A PRIVATE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION. REMAINING SEVEN WERE UNKNOWN TO EMBASSY, BUT MAY HAVE BEEN PICKED UP FOR SPREADING "RUMORS".
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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